

BARBER-SURGEONS IN GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND

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by

Sir John McNee, D.S.O., F.R.S.Ed., D.Sc., M.D., F.R.C.P., L.L.D.

Emeritus Regius Professor of the Practice of Medicine, University of Glasgow
Consultant Physician, University College Hospital, London, and Western Infirmary,
Glasgow

Past Master of the Company of Barber-Surgeons of London

I HOPE TO interest you, in this Vicary Lecture for 1958, in the history of some of the Companies and Guilds of Barber-Surgeons in Great Britain and Ireland, apart from our flourishing Livery Company of Barbers, or Barber-Surgeons, of London, of which I have the honour to be the immediate Past Master. I am deliberately leaving out, as far as possible, reference to our London Company [an ancestor of this College], for its history was so fully recorded by Sidney Young, one of our former Masters, in his book *Annals of the Barber-Surgeons of London*, published in 1891.

My interest in Barber-Surgeons goes back to my school-days at Newcastle-upon-Tyne, a city to which I am much attached and where I still have many friends, particularly among the medical profession. I became aware, quite early in my life, that a Company of Barber-Surgeons existed in that city and, indeed, as I shall be able to tell you, still continues to exist. It is therefore not surprising that when I came to work in London, and wished to join a City Livery Company, I chose the Barbers, or the Barber-Surgeons, as they were known for hundreds of years.

Until quite recently, when I was beginning to collect material for this lecture, I believed that the only two surviving Companies of Barbers, or Barber-Surgeons, were in London and Newcastle-upon-Tyne; and I was quite astonished to learn that there is still another in the city of Chester. All the others came to an end long ago, most of them before 1745, the year when the Barbers and Surgeons in London finally separated.

Few written records remain concerning many of the Guilds of Barber-Surgeons which were once scattered so widely through our country, but fortunately in a few places one or more local doctors, interested in medical history, collected accurate information on the spot before it was too late, and have published lectures and even long monographs. These have been of great help to me in my researches; and moreover they have often contained references to similar Guilds elsewhere, which I have been able to follow up with the friendly help of city archivists who have access to Freeman's Rolls and other historical municipal documents of their city.

Some of the larger Companies had Royal Charters, confirming them at intervals in their rights and privileges—London and Dublin are good examples—but by far the majority of Barber-Surgeons were simply local

Craft Guilds, subject to the control of the municipal authorities—Mayor, Sheriffs and Council. A Barber-Surgeon became a Freeman of his town or city, and his name and occupation appear in the Freeman's Rolls. Sometimes other valuable information lies hidden among old municipal records such as, for instance, the probate of a Barber-Surgeon's last will and testament, containing the only copy known of the Seal of his Guild.

In various ways I have collected, in the past two years, a large amount of information about Barber-Surgeons, and may still obtain more. I already have almost enough, when properly organised and collated, to make a book—a result which I note has already happened to some previous Vicary Lecturers!

To-day, in a short lecture, I can do no more than attempt to skim off a little of the cream, and provide a list of references from which others, at some future time, may make a start.

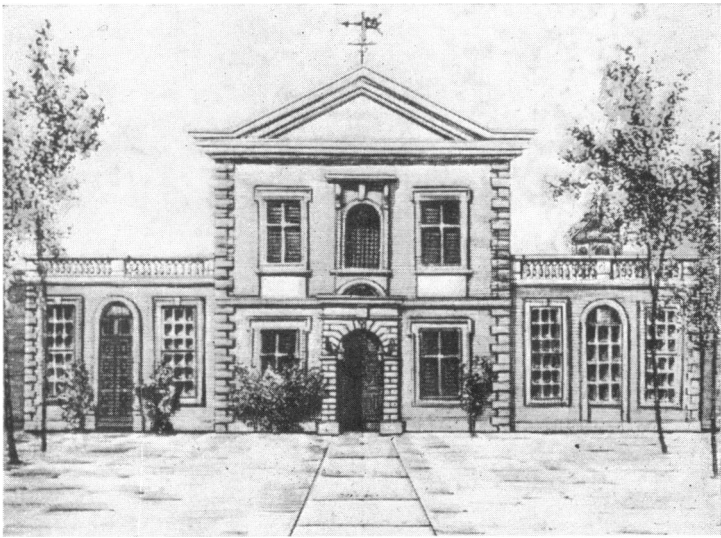


Fig. 1. Barber-Surgeons' Hall, Monkswell Street, London. The Hall of the Parent Company.

It is obvious throughout all known records that the London Company was always regarded as the Parent Company (Fig. 1). The Rules and Ordinances of provincial Guilds are mostly, but not universally, close copies of those used in London; and again most, but not all, used the same Coat of Arms and Seal as the London Company (Fig. 2).

It is of interest to note that in a number of cities, but not in London, the Barber-Surgeons were united, apparently from their commencement, with the Wax and Tallow Chandlers (sometimes one, sometimes both) to form a single Guild; and everywhere, when the wearing of powdered

wigs by males became fashionable, the art and craft of Periwig Maker was added to the professional work of the Barber-Surgeons.

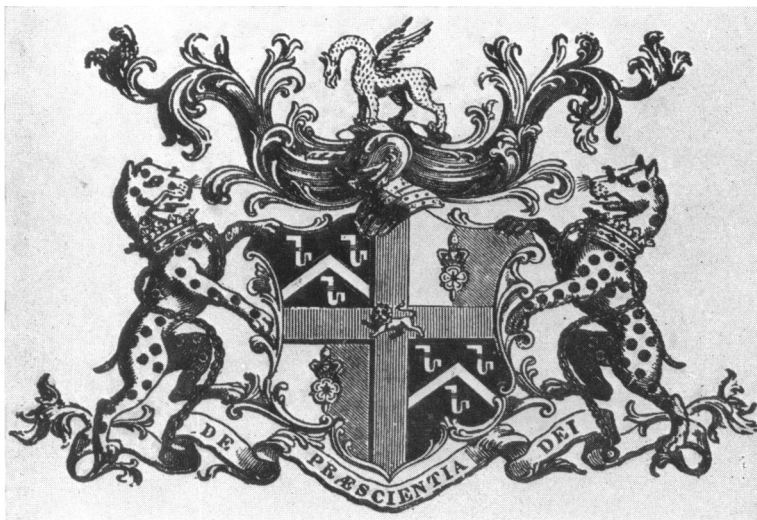


Fig. 2. Coat of Arms of the Barber-Surgeons of London.

The origin of Guilds (or Gilds) in Britain

There is material already published in many volumes, and I would refer especially to the works of Toulmin Smith, Malet Lambert and to the full accounts in some well-known encyclopaedias. Nevertheless I must say a few words on this large subject to explain some points about the early days of the Barber-Surgeons.

The origin of the whole Guild system is obscure and in some ways controversial, but there is no doubt that it was widespread in many parts of Europe long before it spread to our island.

The word "Gild" is of Saxon origin, originally meaning the payment of money or tribute, and it survives in the many Guildhalls of our cities and towns. I have seen a reference to a Merchants' Guild in Winchester in the reign of Ethelwulf, in A.D. 856. Merchants' Guilds (*Gilda Mercatoria*) undoubtedly arose in England before Craft Guilds or Fraternities, probably, as the Winchester record suggests, in the ninth century. Craft Guilds, including Barber-Surgeons, came later, and spread widely only after the Norman Conquest in the eleventh century. As Craft Guilds developed the older and fewer Merchants' Guilds gradually disappeared. Toulmin Smith, in his book, gives the original Ordinances of over 100 of the early English Craft Guilds; and Charles Williams, surgeon and historian of the Norwich Guild of Barber-Surgeons, has provided some information of special interest for this Vicary Lecture, which is dealt with later.

What actually was a Gild or Guild ? Samuel Johnson, in his famous Dictionary, gave quite a good definition, as follows : "A Society, Corporation, Fraternity or Company combined together by orders and laws made among themselves." He might have added that the Guilds all had a deeply religious origin (an alternative name for the Barber-Surgeons was the Guild of St. Magdalene) and that much of their activity, as it is to-day in the City Livery Companies, was devoted to the care of their poorer brethren. A Craft Guild bore no resemblance to a modern trade union, although in fact it was a local "closed shop." It had some slight resemblance to a modern friendly society ; but really was quite different from either of these modern devices. Masters and men (i.e., the apprentices) were bound together by strict rules for the mutual benefit of each, and there was always a long period of apprenticeship—generally seven years—followed by a strict examination before admission, with subsequent entry as a Freeman on the local Roll. The Examiners or "Searchers," with a special badge of office referred to subsequently, included among their duties discipline among the apprentices, exclusion of poaching strangers, prevention of Sunday trading and all matters guarding the local monopoly of the Guild. Craft Guilds continued to flourish from the twelfth to the sixteenth century, but in the seventeenth century they went gradually into decline, and before 1750 most of them had ceased to exist. This was long before their powers were *officially* ended, and all Guild restrictions on trade abolished, by the Municipal Reform Act of 1839.

The origin of the Barber-Surgeons

There has been much speculation, and many hypotheses have been put forward to explain the association of Barbers and Surgeons, a union which at the time of its origin, however, was probably not nearly so curious and odd as it appears to us now. The union was certainly effective long before Craft Guilds crossed from the Continent to Britain, and the early story may for ever remain a Guild mystery.

To-day, I will only advance one well-known but simple hypothesis, having warned you that there are many others. In the early part of the so-called dark ages, monks in their religious houses were undoubtedly the first to attain to any primitive knowledge of the cure of diseases and the treatment of wounds and accidents. The monks had servants who among other duties were their barbers and shaved their tonsures. It is said that monks, by Papal Edict, were forbidden to shed blood, and passed on their knowledge of primitive surgery and of bleeding to their barber servants, who became in time recognised as Barber-Surgeons and founders of a Guild.

I have already noted that the Craft Guilds, including Barber-Surgeons, first spread widely over England soon after the Norman Conquest in 1066. The earliest mention of a Barber which I have been able to trace is from the Roll of Norwich Freeman, quoted by Charles Williams—John Belton, Barber, 1163. The word surgeon only appears later, and again my first

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record is from Norwich—Randulph de Morlee, “Surgyon,” 1288. Soon afterwards the names of Barber-Surgeons became quite numerous in many Freemans Rolls, and later still Leeches (Leches) and Apothecaries began to indicate their profession.

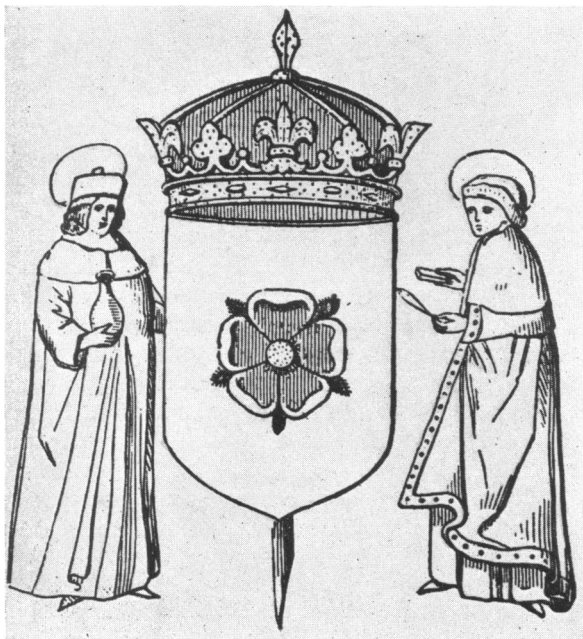


Fig. 3. Insignia of the early Company (not incorporated) of Surgeons in London.

It is of interest to note here that our first record for the parent London Company is of Richard le Barber, sworn in at Guildhall in 1308. Everything earlier, and there must have been much earlier records in London, is lost.

At first the art of Barbbery and the primitive art of Surgery were no doubt easily combined in one person, the surgery being confined mainly to tooth-drawing and the treatment of minor wounds. Gradually, but quite early in the history of our Guild, some men restricted their practice to Barbbery and others to Surgery (Fig. 3), and this dichotomy persisted uneasily during the hundreds of years in which Barbers and Surgeons were united in one Guild.

Most of the Guilds of Barber-Surgeons were small and simply concerned to maintain the local monopoly of their craft. Only a few of them possessed a Hall or meeting place of their own, but it was in some of these Halls, as will be seen, that the real foundations of Surgery began, with the provision of a dissecting room for the study of Anatomy.

Some Companies and Guilds of Barber-Surgeons

Clearly, for this lecture, I must select Companies and Guilds which have some special interest, and leave out historical details of many others for some possible future occasion. England, much the most populous and settled part of Britain in the years after the Norman Conquest, naturally had the greatest number of Guilds. Ireland, in the thirteenth century, severely under the control of the Anglo-Norman dynasty, had a few very interesting companies of Barber-Surgeons, founded as will be seen later chiefly on the model of the Bristol Craft Guilds. Scotland, on the other hand, at that time and for much later struggling for independence, had few separate Craft Guilds, although I shall be speaking later about the Edinburgh Guild of Barber-Surgeons. In Scotland the control of trade developed slowly and rather differently, and even the early history of surgery was different, for instance, in Glasgow.

Wales, rather to my astonishment and disappointment, seems to be very destitute of Guild history, and the keeper of printed books in the National Library of Wales states that although Barbers, Surgeons and Apothecaries are mentioned in town records there is nothing to indicate that they ever formed themselves into a Guild. Perhaps the important city and port of Bristol, in which Guilds appeared so early, was too near.

In my description, pride of place must naturally go to the only two Companies or Guilds of Barber-Surgeons which, apart from our Livery Company in London, still remain in being. I shall then pass on to others of special historical interest, but all of which have long since expired.

Newcastle-upon-Tyne

I have very full information about the Newcastle Company, both from written sources and from friends. The Company has been fortunate in its historians, both past and present. The most complete account of it was given by the late Dr. D. Embleton, one of the early physicians of the Royal Victoria Infirmary, in a long booklet published locally in 1891, and in an article published in 1892. Various local Surgeons, especially the late Mr. Gray Turner, have shown great interest in the Guild. Mr. Hodgson and Emeritus Professor F. C. Pybus, both personally known to many senior Fellows of this College, are still interested, although neither of them is apparently eligible to become a member of the Guild. Professor Pybus published, in 1929, a long account of the Newcastle Barber-Surgeons, and this article, with some personal letters, has been of great help to me. Finally I have enjoyed discussions with Mr. L. C. Ramsay, the present Chief Steward (or Master) of the Company, who came as our guest to the Livery Dinner of the London Company in 1957, while I was Master.

The Incorporated Company of Barber-Surgeons, Wax and Tallow Chandlers of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, was founded on 10th October 1442, rather late in comparison with similar Guilds elsewhere. It was a local Craft Guild, and never had a Royal Charter. The oldest Minute book is lost, so that the earliest written records are included in a book which

covers the years 1616 to 1686. The Company was never large numerically. In 1616 there were sixty brethren ; to-day (in 1958) there are only seventeen ; and admission being solely by patrimony, in spite of various suggestions to change this rule, the continued life of the Company is obviously in peril. Not a single medical man, Barber, Wax and Tallow Chandler, remains. The Company meets once a year, on Trinity Monday, the day fixed for their chief meeting day and feast at their foundation in 1442 ; but feasts are now a thing of the past.

Our chief interest in the Newcastle Company must be in the history of their various meeting places or Halls, in which Anatomy and Surgery were actively taught for many years ; and in the relations of Barber-Surgeons Hall to the embryonic stage of the flourishing Medical School, which now forms the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Durham.

Their first meeting place was in a tower over one of the gates of the walled city—Pandon Gate. Plague in 1636 and war in 1644, when the city was beleaguered, ended this plan, for the tower was demolished to improve the defences. A house was temporarily rented in 1648, but at the same time the Company petitioned the Mayor and Corporation for a site on which to build a permanent Hall. A lease of land for sixty-one years at 6s. 8d. per annum was granted, and the Company also obtained additional adjacent ground to make a physic garden of medicinal herbs. The first Hall was occupied in 1652, and is the one so well described by Miss Celia Fiennes in the well-known Diary of her travels through parts of England on horseback in the reign of William and Mary (1689-1694). This intrepid lady, of the family still represented by the present Lord Saye and Sele, gives the most complete account now available of Barber-Surgeons Hall, its pretty herb garden and its Anatomy room with two bodies that had been anatomised. I have heard much about this lady and her Diary from one of the Fiennes family, recently Master of the Vintners' Company of London.

Dr. Embleton also gives a graphic account of the Company's main activities in their first Hall. As a charity they aided not only their own poor brethren, but also many other poor strangers and wanderers—maimed soldiers, ship-wrecked sailors and the like. They also made an annual grant to the Northumberland Plate, a famous horse race once run on the Town Moor but now nearby at Gosforth, and still known affectionately as the Pitman's Derby. There are full details of the teaching of Anatomy and Surgery, of the bodies of felons they obtained for dissection, of the books and skeletons they bought, and of the fine case of surgical instruments which they lent out to members of the Guild. There is reference to the "Searchers," who disciplined and examined the apprentices and dealt with quacks and poachers not belonging to the Guild. In 1711, as the fashion came in, Periwig making was added to their other activities.

Barber-Surgeons Hall was rebuilt on the same site in 1730, but in a different and more ornate style (Fig. 4). It was again surrounded by a

garden, in which some fine statues were erected. Professor Pybus has tried hard to discover the fate of these statues, but without success.

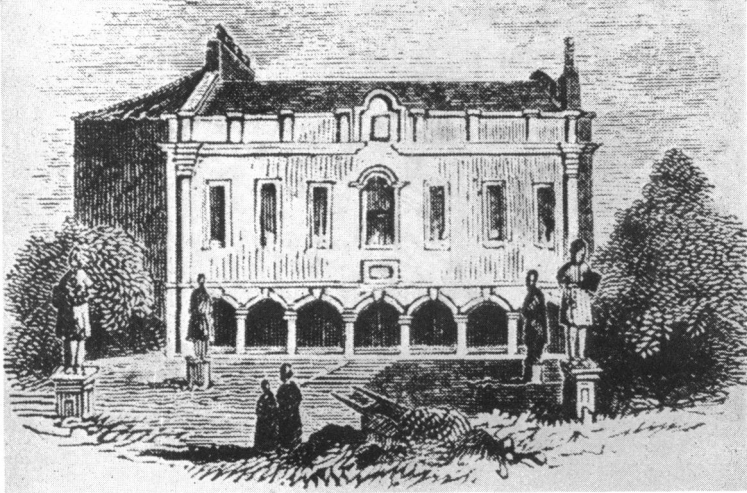


Fig. 4. Hall of the Barber-Surgeons of Newcastle-upon-Tyne.
(This represents their Second Hall.)

The Company continued to meet in their new Hall until about 1830, but by this year their activities were obviously in acute decline, and the Hall stood empty for four years. It was at this time, in 1834, that the Hall was taken over by the newly formed Medical School of Newcastle, and active teaching was carried on until 1851. At that date the railway company obtained powers to extend the Central Station and demolish the Hall, but this was conditional to a new third Hall being built, in which the Medical School continued its teaching until 1857. About that period there was an unfortunate split in the Medical School, and the minority group retained possession of Barber-Surgeons Hall. Peace was restored, the Hall became redundant, and was finally sold to the Parish of St. Paul as a school, which it still remains.

The Coat of Arms of the Newcastle Company (Fig. 5) is unusual in showing clearly the union of Barber-Surgeons with Wax and Tallow Chandlers. There are two shields, that on the left practically identical with that of the London parent Company of Barber-Surgeons, that on the right presumably representing the Chandlers.

How has this old Company in Newcastle managed to survive? The main reason would appear to be the continued activity of the Freemen of the City for the preservation of the Town Moor, a very large open space of great value belonging to the citizens. Many threats to build on the moor or to spoil it in other ways have been thwarted by the watchfulness of the Freemen, the survivors and representatives of the ancient Guilds.

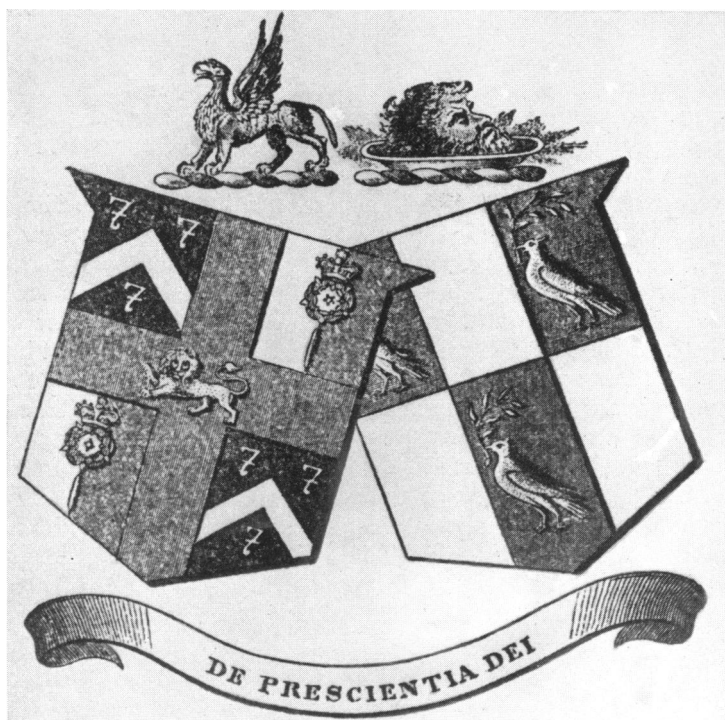


Fig. 5. Coat of Arms of the Barber-Surgeons, Wax and Tallow Chandlers, of Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

The Company of Barber-Surgeons, Wax and Tallow Chandlers, of Chester

It was only quite recently that I discovered that this Company or Guild still survives in Chester, and I am greatly indebted to Miss E. Finch, City Archivist, for putting me on the right track to obtain all the information which I so far possess. Miss Finch kindly sent me a long article, of over 100 pages, said to have been delivered to an Archaeological Society in 1911 by Mr. Frank Simpson. This article or lecture deals with all the Guilds of Chester, but with special emphasis on the Barber-Surgeons. Miss Finch also put me in touch with Dr. C. K. Sconce of Chester, who had lectured on the Barber-Surgeons when President of the Chester and North Wales Medical Society, but his lecture was never printed. Miss Finch was also able to provide the name of the present Chief Steward of the Chester Guild, Mr. R. F. M. Roberts, and to obtain some important details from him on my behalf.

It is clear from what Mr. Frank Simpson states, that he had full access in 1911 to the records of the Guild, which were placed at his disposal by Mr. R. Roberts, at that time said to be the sole surviving member

of the Company. Now, Miss Finch informs me after her inquiries from the present Chief Steward, Mr. R. F. M. Roberts, the brethren are six in number. One is over eighty years of age, but there are three prospective entrants, sons of present members, who will probably be admitted within two years. A meeting takes place once a year at the home of the Chief Steward, who is understood to have all records of the Guild in his possession.

The Chester Guild of Barber-Surgeons is clearly, from Mr. Simpson's account, a very old foundation, probably dating from the early fourteenth century. The Miracle plays, in which all the City Guilds took part, were first performed in Chester in 1328, and the Barber-Surgeons are then recorded as having acted Abraham and Isaac or the Slaughter of the Innocents. It is also on record, this time in the city archives, that in 1376 there were twenty-six Guilds or Companies in Chester, and the Barber-Surgeons, as in other places united with the Wax and Tallow Chandlers, ranked third on the list.

Four Minute books are said to exist, the first beginning in 1606. In 1698, when the second book commences, the Company consisted of one Alderman, one Chief Steward, and forty-one brethren. The fourth volume, begun in 1842, is believed to be still in use. All the original local charters of this Guild, issued by the City Mayor and Common Council, are lost ; but copies of two of them, dated 1540 and 1550, are included in the second Minute book. The Guild never had a real Hall, and was never concerned with the teaching of Anatomy or Surgery. It met for many years in a tower on the city walls, the Golden Phoenix or King Charles' Tower. This was much damaged during the siege of Chester by the Parliamentarians in 1645 to 1646, but was rebuilt and again used by the Barber-Surgeons. It was too small for feasts, and the meetings adjourned to various inns in the city.

Why did this small local Guild not die out, as in so many other cities, and why is it alive to-day ? The reason is a fascinating one, and is concerned with the Owen Jones bequest. I can here only deal briefly with the matter and full details are given by Frank Simpson. Owen Jones, a resident of Chester, by his will dated 14th February 1658, bequeathed his small landed estate in the County of Denbigh for the benefit of the poor of the Gilds and Companies of Chester. In 1743 the income from the estate was £16 17s. 4d., which gradually increased to £40. Then suddenly a rich seam of lead was found on the land, the mining rights were leased to a company for thirty-one years in 1758, and the financial results were marvellous. For instance, it is on record that in January 1792 one small Guild, the Barber-Surgeons, after paying all expenses, distributed the sum of £391 16s. 0d. among its twenty-six brethren. Various portions of the land were sold in 1864 for £22,092, but a rental value of £116 still remained ; and in 1870 Royalties for the mineral rights still amounted to £1,840 for the year. It is not surprising that in 1892 the Charity Commissioners were called in, since so much money was being distributed

among so few persons. They drew up a scheme, still in being, which among other benefits to the city of Chester provides free education and many other advantages to young citizens of Chester, particularly if their parent is associated with one of the old Guilds. It is perhaps not surprising that the few remaining Barber-Surgeons of Chester are a little reticent about their doings, and still hold their papers and records firmly in possession.

The Seal of the Company has been lost, but apparently they used, as did other similar Guilds, the Coat of Arms of the London Company.

The Barber-Surgeons, Wax and Tallow Chandlers, of Norwich

The Barber-Surgeons of Norwich are fortunate in having had a splendid local historian, Mr. Charles Williams, F.R.C.S., Surgeon to the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital at the turn of the present century. Through the kindness of Mr. Blaxland, Surgeon in Norwich, who remembers Mr. Williams well, I was put in touch with the son of Mr. Williams, who kindly loaned me some of his father's papers to which (with other publications) reference is made.

The Barber-Surgeons of Norwich was founded as a Company long before 1388, but its earliest records are lost. In 1388, however, an interesting historical event occurred which, as will be seen, is of great interest for the history of *all* Barber-Surgeons. In that year Richard II sent out writs throughout his Kingdom to enquire into the nature and constitution of the Guilds. The replies were all, or nearly all, stored in the Tower of London, but were in some unknown way destroyed. By good fortune the replies of Norwich and Lincoln went elsewhere, and are still preserved in the Public Records Office. The Norwich reply provided Williams with a fund of interesting information, of which he took full advantage. He gives the full reply to the King, changed into modern English, which is well worth reading. Like all Guilds, when asked their age, the Norwich Guild replied that they went back "whereunto the memory of man knoweth not." As in other places the Barber-Surgeons of Norwich appear to have been united from their foundation with the Wax and Tallow Chandlers.

The reply also gives important information, not available elsewhere, of the number of Craft Guilds not only in the city of Norwich—thirty-seven in all—but also in the County of Norfolk—909 in all. This is the best evidence we possess of the number of Guilds which must have existed all over England at that time.

The Norwich Guild was simply a local Craft Guild, under the control of the Municipality. It had no Hall, but met, like other Guilds, in the city Guildhall. No Minute books remain, but Williams found many references to the Guild in the Assembly Rolls and Freemans Rolls of the city, some of which have already been mentioned in this lecture.

In 1684 a new formal set of Ordinances was drawn up, and is preserved in the Muniment Room of the Castle Museum at Norwich. The last

official reference to the Barber-Surgeons of Norwich is in the Assembly Roll for 1723, and the Guild presumably came to an end soon afterwards.

The Barber-Surgeons of York (Ebor)

The Barber-Surgeons of York (Ebor) were also fortunate in having a good local medical historian, Dr. G. A. Auden, father of the famous poet, and to his paper I am chiefly indebted. The Guild in York was obviously very ancient, and in the roll of Freemen of the city, which begins in 1272, the first Barber (Rogerus le Barber) was noted as admitted in 1290. This is eighteen years in advance of the first recorded Barber of the London Company.

An early entry about Barber-Surgeons in the Exchequer accounts of York for 1346 is of much interest. It records "Payments to William de Bolton and Hugo de Kilvington, Barber-Surgeons, going from York to the Castle of Bamburgh (in Northumberland) to heal the said David de Brus who lay there, having been wounded with an arrow at the said battle, and to extract the arrow and to heal him with despatch . . . £6." The battle referred to is Nevilles Cross, fought in 1346, and David de Brus was the younger brother of Robert the Bruce, King of Scotland, and victor of Bannockburn. The two Barber-Surgeons must have made a good job of it for David de Brus, after being ransomed, became King David of Scotland and lived for long afterwards.



Fig. 6. Brass "Searcher's Badge" of the Barber-Surgeons of York.
(Now exhibited at the Wellcome Historical Medical Museum, London.)

The Ordinances and Rules of the Company certainly date far back in history, and in 1486 was begun their famous illustrated Book of Ordinances, purchased and now carefully preserved by the British Museum (Egerton MSS. 2572). This lovely book, which I have myself examined, contains paintings of the Coat of Arms of the Barber-Surgeons (identical with those of London) and also of Henry VII, Henry VIII, Edward VI, Mary, Elizabeth, James I and Charles I. In the Ordinances there is a full account of the "Searchers" who had many duties, including the discipline and examination of the apprentices and the seeking out and reporting to the Municipality of poachers coming unlawfully into the city to practice their craft. Searchers had a brass arm-badge of office, and the only one known to exist belonged to the Barber-Surgeons of York and is now exhibited at the Wellcome Historical Museum (Fig. 6).

Apart from their famous Book of Ordinances, no written records of the Company have yet been found, and it is believed to have dissolved about 1721 or shortly afterwards.

I am much indebted to Revd. Angelo Raine and Mr. Bernard P. Johnson, both of York, for help, as well as to Dr. Auden.

The Barber-Surgeons of Bristol

I am disappointed that I have been able to obtain so little information about the Barber-Surgeons of Bristol, which must have been one of the earliest and most important Guilds of its kind outside of London. This will be evident when I am dealing with Barber-Surgeons in Ireland, for in the early days Bristol was the chief English port trading with Ireland and Bristol was the model for many trade and craft usages in Ireland. Moreover, Bristol was the home port of famous merchant adventurers, Cabot and others, whose ships required surgeons provided locally, as surgeons were provided and examined for so many years by the London Company for the Navy. Much of my information so far about Bristol has been obtained from a paper by George Parker, M.D., Physician to the Bristol General Hospital, who in 1912 wrote on Barber-Surgeons in general. This contained much valuable and curious information which I have used elsewhere, but unfortunately too little reference to Bristol itself.

In *The Little Red Book of Bristol*, a treasure not allowed out of their City Library, three copies of Ordinances of the Barber-Surgeons are given, the first dated September 1395, the second 1408, and the third, an extension of the first two, in 1439. The third Ordinances were fully confirmed by the Mayor and Sheriff of Bristol in the same year, after which there comes a long gap until 1652. At this time the Common Council of the city confirmed the ancient rights of the "Barbers and Chirurgeons" and made some important new rules for the Company. One of these enjoined that "every Surgeon entering for a voyage as Surgeon of a ship of the port shall have his chest (i.e. of instruments) examined by the Master and two others, that it be well furnished with all things necessary for the said voyage."

SIR JOHN MCNEE

Parker, by persistent enquiry under considerable difficulties, established that the Barber-Surgeons of Bristol had a Hall of their own, and moreover that it still existed in a dismantled condition in 1911 as part of the Bunch of Grapes Inn and Restaurant in Exchange Avenue (Fig. 7). From his inspection he felt sure that the Hall originally contained a theatre for Anatomy, but written evidence is absent.



Fig. 7. Barber-Surgeons' Hall, Bristol.
(All that remained of it in 1911 (Parker.))

The usual quarrels and differences between Barbers and Surgeons occurred in Bristol, and in 1739 the Barbers made a plea to the Common Council with "complaint of their grievances and ill treatment by the Surgeons." This availed nothing, for the Surgeons quickly seceded ; and the Barber-Surgeons apparently came to an end about 1742, when their Hall was sold as a coffee house.

An interesting point, stated by Parker, but without detailed evidence, is that in 1912, when he wrote his paper "a single member of the Company recently remained." One wonders if this single member possessed any documents or other treasures which may still come to light in Bristol !

The Barber-Surgeons in Ireland

Dublin

Pride of place must naturally go to Dublin, although to amplify the scanty history of Guilds in Dublin, in the early days, I have had to fall back to some extent on the written history of Limerick ! In a history of Limerick it is stated that in 1192 Prince John, who had been declared King of Ireland in 1177 and was later to be crowned King John of England in 1199, granted a Charter to Dublin to form Craft Guilds like those of Bristol. In 1199 he granted the same privileges by Charter to Limerick, and possibly also to Cork. A long gap exists in Dublin history until 18th October 1446 when, in the reign of Henry VI of England, a Royal Charter was granted to the " Guild of St. Mary Magdalene of the City of Dublin." A second Royal Charter was obtained in 1577, in the reign of Elizabeth, which definitely gave the Guild of St. Magdalene jurisdiction over all those who " carried on the calling of Apothecaries, Surgeons or Barbers in Dublin." Thus, different from London, the Apothecaries in Dublin were united with the Barber-Surgeons. The Royal Charter of Henry VI (1446) is claimed to be the first Royal Charter awarded to any Company of Barber-Surgeons ; and even in this old Charter the troubles of Ireland are apparent, for it is enacted that all the members must be English born.

Just as in London the union of Barbers and Surgeons was not always cordial, and it is clear from the wording of the Charter of Queen Elizabeth that a final attempt was being made to bind the Surgeons and Barbers firmly in one Guild.

A third Royal Charter in 1687 (James II) also firmly incorporated the Apothecaries and Puke-makers with the Barber-Surgeons (Fig. 8). At this time the combined Guild had a Hall of their own in Smock Alley, and an account of one of their meetings there (Thomas Collins, Master) on the 28th February 1714 survives.

The Apothecaries gradually became the richest section of the Incorporated Guild, for they made money on all drugs coming into Ireland. In 1745, in the reign of George II, they obtained a new Royal Charter separating themselves completely from the Barbers, Puke-makers and Surgeons. This Charter contained, as for all the city Guilds of Dublin at that time, provision against the admission of Roman Catholics—a continued source of trouble. In 1789 the Apothecaries applied to Parliament for permission to establish an Apothecaries' Hall, similar to that in London. Permission was granted in 1791, and within a year their new Hall in Mary Street was built and occupied. The Apothecaries' Hall of

Dublin still exists as a Licencing Body to-day but has changed its site. Meantime, as in London, the Surgeons had again been restive and had formed a separate society without a Charter. In 1784 the Surgeons finally obtained the first Charter of the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland, nearly forty years after the separation of Barbers and Surgeons in London. Thereupon the Barber-Surgeons Company fell quietly into decline and

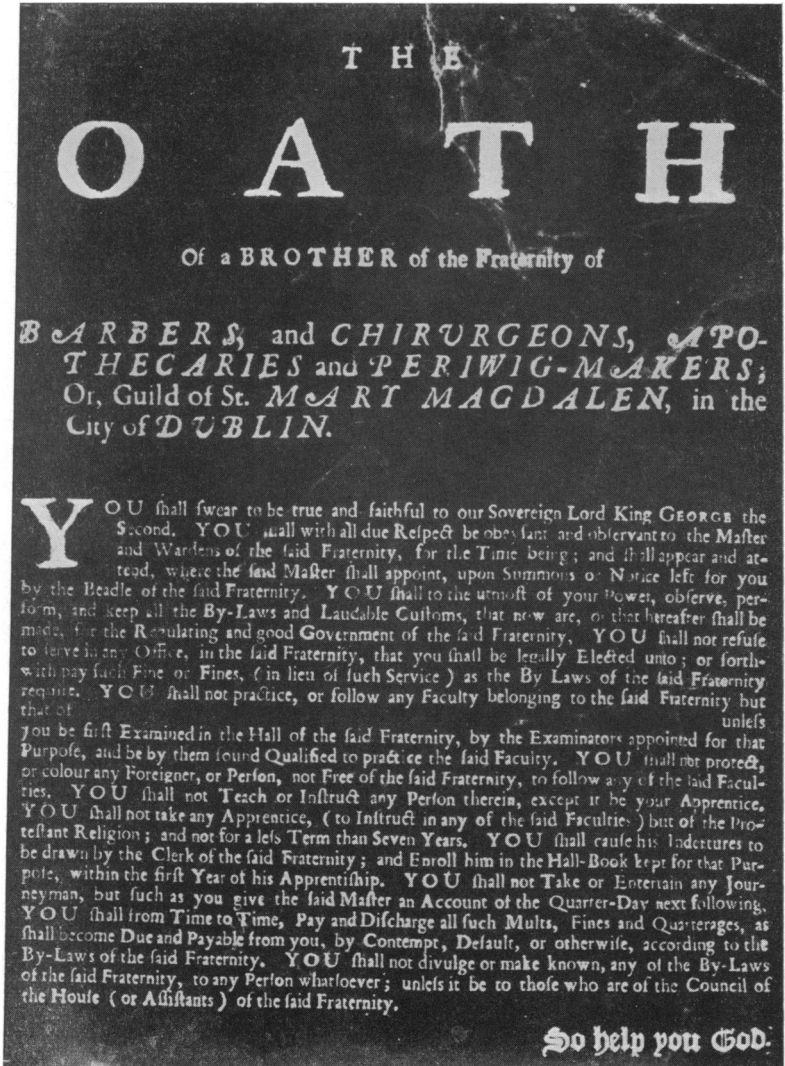


Fig. 8. Oath of a Brother of the Barber-Surgeons of Dublin.
(In Trinity College Library, Dublin.)

BARBER-SURGEONS IN GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND

finally expired. All their existing records have, however, been deposited in a chest in the Library of Trinity College, Dublin, where I have been able to examine them. The original Charter of Henry VI is lost, but those of Elizabeth and James II remain. The list of brethren finally closes in 1840, and it is believed that all the papers were deposited at Trinity College by William L. Moore, author of *An Outline of the History of Pharmacy in Dublin*, published in Dublin in 1848.

At their commencement in 1446 the Barber-Surgeons of Dublin used the same Arms and Seal as the London Company, but in 1645 they received a grant of Arms of their own, and I am able to show you an impression of their Seal (Fig. 9).



Fig. 9. Drawing of wax impression of the ancient Seal of the Barber-Surgeons of Dublin.

(Note the crowned harps, and other differences from the Arms of the London Company. Drawn by Miss Helen Wilson, F.I.A.L. Seal in Trinity College Library, Dublin.)

Limerick and *Cork* both had Guilds of Barber-Surgeons. In *Cork* no records or papers have survived, and the first mention of the Guild in

the City records is as late as 1656. Limerick fortunately possessed a good local historian in Robert Herbert, whose paper on the Trade Guilds of Limerick, published in 1941, contains not only valuable information about the local Barber-Surgeons but about similar Guilds elsewhere. As has been stated earlier Prince John, later King John of England, granted the first Charter to the Guilds of Limerick in 1199, and a second Charter was granted by Edward I in 1291, Bristol being quoted in both instances as the example to follow. All native Irish were excluded from the Guilds, a source of much subsequent trouble. In 1769 fifteen Guilds existed in Limerick, including separate Guilds of Surgeon-Barbers and of Tallow Chandlers. By 1833 the "Commissioners on Municipal Corporations in Ireland" found twenty-one Guilds still existing in Limerick, but the Surgeon-Barbers had already ended before the others were made to follow suit. The Limerick Guild is said to have used the same Seal as that granted to Dublin in 1645, and in 1874 their Seal is said to have been exhibited to the Royal Society of Antiquarians of Ireland, but its present whereabouts is unknown.

The Barber-Surgeons in Scotland

Up to 1018, according to Comrie, the counties which now form South East Scotland were part of the Anglian Kingdom of Northumbria, and the town of Berwick was included in this area. In 1249 Berwick, although by then included in Scotland and its principal early port, is said by Cochran-Patrick to have established Guild laws (*Statuta Gilde*) and to have had a Dean of Guild. This may be the first impact of Guilds in Scotland, but the Guild system evidently did not spread in the same way in Scotland as in the south, although Trades Houses and Deans of Guild exist in the cities even to-day.

Edinburgh

The only important Guild of Barber-Surgeons in Scotland was in Edinburgh, and was incorporated by a Charter of the Town Council, termed a Seal of Cause, on 1st July 1505. This Charter was ratified by James IV in 1506, and again by James VI in 1613 (Struthers, Scott Moncrieff, Wade). By the Charter one body was allowed annually for dissection.

As occurred elsewhere the Surgeons gradually began to consider themselves superior to the Barbers and to drift apart. The first step towards separation came in 1648 when, according to the Barbers, there were ten surgeons practising in Edinburgh and only six Barbers. In the following year Barbers were excluded from the Guild unless they could pass an examination in Surgery, and according to Scott Moncrieff practising Barbers became hard to find in Edinburgh. Difficulties continued and in 1694 the Surgeons really separated from the Barbers but took in the Apothecaries, thus creating a new mongrel calling—a Surgeon-Apothecary. This aroused the Barbers, who raised a Court action in 1718 to restore

their ancient rights, granted in 1505. The Surgeons lost their case, but things went on as before, although the Apothecaries now came under the wing of the College of Physicians of Edinburgh, founded in 1681.

From 1718 the separation of Barbers and Surgeons in Edinburgh was for practical purposes complete, but the final formal separation only came in 1845, when the Surgeons obtained from Parliament a new Grant of Incorporation by which they were relieved of all obligations to the Barbers in consideration of an annual payment of £10. This was the death knell of the Barber-Surgeons Guild, the last meeting of which was held in September, 1892, with two members present, father and son.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Personal friends, city archivists, librarians, and others to whom I have written for local information, have all helped greatly in providing the material for this Vicary Lecture. They are too many to mention individually, and I wish now to thank all of them sincerely for their interest and courtesy.

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNCIL IN DECEMBER

AT A MEETING of the Council on 11th December, with Professor Sir James Paterson Ross, President, in the Chair, Lord Cohen of Birkenhead was appointed the first Watson-Jones Lecturer.

Mr. A. Dickson Wright was appointed Bradshaw Lecturer for 1959.

The appointment of Professor R. V. Bradlaw as Menzies Campbell Lecturer was announced.

A Moynihan Lectureship was awarded to Professor Englebert Dunphy of Harvard Medical School.

An endowment of £150,000 for the Chair of Pharmacology from Mr. G. A. Vandervell was most gratefully accepted.

The Begley Prize was presented to Mary Elizabeth Ashworth, of Charing Cross Hospital Medical School.

Diplomas of Fellowship were granted to 100 candidates, named in the list on page 64.

The following hospitals were recognised under paragraph 23 of the Fellowship Regulations :

HOSPITALS	POSTS RECOGNISED		
	General (all 6 mths.)	Casualty (all 6 mths.)	Unspecified (all 6 mths.)
COVENTRY—Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital (Additional)	Regr. (R.S.O.) S.H.O. H.S.	J.H.M.O. (Cas. Off.)	
RICHMOND, Surrey — Royal Hospital (Additional)		S.H.O. (Cas. & Orth.)	
EPPING—St. Margaret's Hospital (Additional)			
LONDON — Prince of Wales's General Hospital (Additional)		S.H.O.	
ILFORD—King George Hospital (Additional)			Regr.